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Message Text

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21
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00

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R 151446Z APR 76
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6919
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, PORG, UN, AFIN
SUBJECT: UN FINANCES - NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON UN FINANCIAL EMERGENCY

1. NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON THE UN FINANCIAL EMERGENCY (COMMITTEE OF 54) HELD ITS OPENING MEETING APRIL 14. SYG WALDHEIM LED OFF WITH BRIEF STATEMENT EXHORTING DELEGATES TO FIND SOLUTION TO SERIOUS UN FINANCIAL PROBLEM LEST PRESENT PRACTICE OF BORROWING FROM FUNDS INTENDED FOR OTHER USES BECOME PERMANENT.

2. COMMITTEE ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION GHANAIAN PERMREP BOATEN AS CHAIRMAN, KEMAL (PAKISTAN) VICE CHAIRMAN, NASON (IRELAND) RAPPORTEUR. ELECTION OF OTHER TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT MEETING (TENTATIVELY TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 3:00 P.M.). WE UNDERSTAND RIVALRIES PARTICULARLY IN LA GROUP ARE HOLDING THIS UP.

3. NO DELEGATIONS MADE SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENTS AND DECISION ON ORGANIZATION OF WORK WAS PUT OFF TILL NEXT MEETING. PLAN IS TO SCHEDULE SEVERAL MEETINGS WEEK OF APRIL. PERMREPS
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OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES WERE IN ATTENDANCE. SOVS WERE REPRESENTED

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BY MINISTER OVINNIKOV WHO IS THEIR TOP ADVISER ON SECURITY
COUNCIL AND OTHER POLITICAL MATTERS, AND GLEB SMIRNOV,
AN ECONOMIC SPECIALIST. AMB. SHERER REPRESENTED US.
COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS BEING POUCHED TO IO-HENNES.

4. AT WEO MEETING PRECEDING DAY TO DISCUSS TACTICS, IT
WAS REPORTED THAT COMMITTEE OF 54 AT SOVIET REQUEST WOULD HOLD
GENERAL DEBATE. ALL PRESENT AGREED THAT LDC'S SHOULD BE
STIMULATED TO TAKE PART. QUESTION OF WHETHER FUTURE WITHHOLDINGS
SHOULD BE THE MAJOR THEME OF WEO INTERVENTIONS WAS EXTENSIVELY
DISCUSSED. MOST FELT THAT GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS SHOULD COVER
ALL THE MAJOR ISSUES. THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT RECRIMINATIONS
SHOULD BE AVOIDED IF POSSIBLE SINCE LDC'S LIKELY TO LOSE INTEREST
IF COLD WAR ATMOSPHERE DEVELOPS, BUT US, UK AND CANADA MADE
CLEAR THEY WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER FALSE SOVIET CHARGES AND COULD
NNOT AGREE
FOR EXAMPLE TO WIPING PAST DEBTS CLEAN. US SAID IT COULD ONLY
AGREE TO A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION OF FINANCIAL PROBLEM.

5. MOST WEO MISSIONS BELIEVED THAT MOST LDC'S WOULD OPPOSE DAVID-
SON SUGGESTION THAT COSTS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BE SPREAD AMONG
PROGRAM AREAS, AND THAT AN IMPORTANT MINORITY OF LDC'S WOULD
REJECT A COMPLETE REMOVAL OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE
REGULAR BUDGET. THERE WAS NO SENTIMENT FOR REMOVAL OF BOND
PAYMENTS FROM THE ASSESSED BUDGET, SINCE NO ONE COULD ENVISAGE
ANYTHING OF VALUE WHICH WEO'S COULD GET IN RETURN.
ALTHOUGH THERE WAS GENERAL UNDERSTANDING THAT SOVIET
WITHHOLDING WAS CRUX OF PROBLEM, SEVERAL REPS (INCLUDING UK)
URGED CUATION IN RENOUNCING WITHHOLDING FOREVER ON GROUNDS
OF PRINCIPLE, SINCE WE MIGHT FIND OURSELVES FORCED TO WITHHOLD
AT SOME FUTURE TIME. IN THIS CONNECTION, SEVERAL DELEGATES
URGED A UNITED FRONT IN OPPOSITION TO INCREASE INWORKING CAPITAL FUND
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